

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace second full paragraph on page 8, lines 12-21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, after the output voltage level of the DC/DC converter 13 has been ~~set~~ set to the value greater than the open voltage level, the controller section 21 discriminates to find whether the given time interval has elapsed (step S3). That is, the controller section 21 operates to control the air compressor 2 and the fuel gas supply section 2 in step S2 and discriminates to find whether the given time interval has elapsed after hydrogen gas and air has been supplied to the fuel cell stack 1 to commence start-up operation. By supplying hydrogen gas and air for the given time interval in such a way, the fuel cell system 1 operates to exhaust impurity gas from the fuel cell stack 1 while warming up the fuel cell stack 1.